

VISIT...

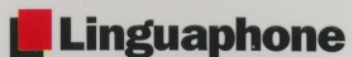
LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone
Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone
Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone
Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone
Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone
Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone
Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone
Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone
Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone
Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone
Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone Linguaphone

中文

中文课程

Alphabet



Linguaphone Institute Limited, London
www.linguaphone.com

GCHEN10



Linguaphone Institute Limited
Lonsgate House, Park
80 Market Road
Middlesbrough, Cumbria
Great Britain

Contents

Section 1

What are Chinese characters?

Section 2

Their Evolution

Section 3

Types of Script

Section 4

Simplified characters

Section 5

Radicals

Section 6

Finding characters

Section 7

Strokes

Section 8

Stroke order

Section 9

Penmanship

Section 10

Character in Lesson 1

Key to exercises

中文课程

Characters

Linguaphone Institute Limited
Liongate Enterprise Park
80 Morden Road
Mitcham CR4 4PH
Great Britain

© MCMLXXVI Linguaphone Institute Limited, London

All rights reserved. No part of this publication, or related recorded material, may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of Linguaphone Institute Limited.

This impression 2004

LSN GCHENA10

Printed and bound in Great Britain by
Aquatint Print & Graphics Limited

Contents

Section 1

What are Chinese characters? 1

Section 2

Their Evolution 1

Section 3

Types of Script 2

Section 4

Simplified characters 3

Section 5

Radicals 3

Section 6

Finding characters 4

Section 7

Strokes 4

Section 8

Stroke order 5

Section 9

Penmanship 6

Section 10

Characters in Lesson 1 6

Key to exercises 17

Language Institute Limited
 100 Victoria Road
 20 Morden Road
 Morden CM4 4PH
 Essex, Britain

Contents	
Section 1	What are Chinese characters?
Section 2	Their Evolution
Section 3	Types of Script
Section 4	Simplified characters
Section 5	Radicals
Section 6	Reading characters
Section 7	Strokes
Section 8	Stroke order
Section 9	Formalship
Section 10	Characters in Pinyin
Section 11	Key to exercises

LAN CHENNAI

Printed and bound in Great Britain by
 Aquaria Print & Graphics Limited

Section 1

What are Chinese characters?

The first thing to establish is that Chinese characters are not the same as letters of an alphabet. Each one has a sound value, but the sound is a complete syllable. More important, each conveys a *meaning* distinct from that of other characters. In other words, every object, action, attribute or abstraction is represented in writing by a separate character. This means necessarily that there are in total very many characters; a comprehensive dictionary, including Classical Chinese, would run to several tens of thousands, and even a modern dictionary might include six or seven thousand, with perhaps half that number in general use. Leaving aside the few which have a purely grammatical function, it could be said that a character represents a word, but that would be to oversimplify. In ancient Chinese that was very nearly the case, but the modern language tends to put characters together to form words, without obscuring their separate identity. A parallel would be the way English words derived from Latin and Greek can be seen to have their constituent parts, such as 'e-voke' and 'tele-phone'. So the character in modern Chinese either stands for a word or a word-element. To learn three or four thousand signs or graphs might seem a formidable task, and indeed it does take years, but progress speeds up considerably once the basic shapes and parts are mastered, and some characters will be met time and time again, thus reinforcing recognition.

Section 2

Their Evolution

The first known characters were simplified pictures or 'pictographs'. In their earliest form, found on oracle bones and bronzes dating from 4000 years ago, these pictographs were easily recognizable, but in their modern form they have become quite stylized. To take natural objects as an example, the sun was drawn as ☉ (now as 日); the moon — with bars of clouds — as 月 (now 月); mountains as 山 (now 山); and running water as 水 (now 水).

Some abstract notions could also be represented by simple signs; numbers are the most obvious, 'one', 'two' and 'three' being written as 一 二 三; and relative positions could be shown too – such as 上 'above' and 下 'below', with the horizontal line as the point of reference.

The writing of other words brought into association two existing pictographs, on a rational basis. The word for 'male' (nán) associated 力 (effort, strength) and 田 (field), to make 男; 'look' (kàn) showed a hand 手 shading the eyes 目: 看; while 'east' (dōng) was represented as the sun 日 rising behind trees 木: 東. There are, however, limits to such ingenuity, and it became common to simply signify the sound of a word by borrowing the graph of an existing character which had the same sound, in other words just to use the character as a phonetic symbol. Later, ambiguity was reduced by giving characters a class indicator, now usually called a 'radical'. For example, the graph 胡, meaning a Northern tribe, appears now as the 'phonetic' hu in several characters which occur in this course, including 湖 ('lake'), with the 'water' radical; 葫 ('gourd') with the 'plant' radical; and 糊 ('paste') with the 'rice' radical. All of these are pronounced hú. (More will be said about radicals in Section 5.)

Section 3
Types of Script

The style of writing has gone through various stages. The oldest that may still be encountered is the script used for personal and official seals (zhuàn), which originated in the 9th Century B.C., and looks rather like trees with spreading branches. Another now only used for decorative purposes is the ancient official style, lìshu, from the 3rd. Century B.C., in which the characters are drawn out breadthwise, like 張 惠 二. The present copybook style, known as zhèngkǎi, which is that used in your textbook, itself dates back to the 4th. century A.D. For more informal purposes, such as letter writing, the 'cursive' style (xíngshū) is used; this joins up certain strokes to make for greater speed of writing, e.g. 張 德 二. The fastest style of all is called 'grass script' (cǎoshū); this is all flow, and is seen mainly in examples of calligraphy, e.g. 張 德 二. The beginner would only be expected to cope with the standard script, zhèngkǎi.

Section 4
Simplified characters

A recent innovation has been the introduction of simplified forms in printed texts. This was started in China in 1956, and at the time of writing the process of simplifying more characters is continuing. Publishing companies outside the China mainland, however, retain the old orthodox forms. Simplification essentially means reducing the number of strokes in a character, mostly by describing the outline contours of a character (e.g. 還 → 还 馬 → 马), or by replacing a complicated element by a simple one whose sound is similar (e.g. 據 jù becomes 据, the element 居 being pronounced ju too). The Linguaphone text is printed in simplified characters.

Section 5
Radicals

Every character has a 'radical', which indicates, ideally speaking, the class of things to which the word belongs. For instance, those with the 'heart' radical (忄 or 心) designate some kind of emotional state; the 'sickness' radical 疒 covers matters of pathology, and so on. For many characters, however, the choice of radical seems arbitrary.

For orthodox characters before simplification, 214 radicals were distinguished. With simplification the number has so far been reduced to 189. A radical may form a complete character by itself, such as 手 shǒu: hand, 人 rén: person; 水 shuǐ: water. When used as part of a character, the shape of the radical may undergo alteration. Those just illustrated, for instance, change to 扌, 亻, and 氵 respectively (as in 打, 你, 河). Others are just compressed a little, e.g. 木 becomes 木, 女 becomes 女 (the complete character always aims for squareness in overall design).

The radical may occupy any position in composite characters. Most commonly it is on the top or on the left, but it may also be on the right or at the bottom. For instance 山 (mountain) appears on the top in 岸, on the left in 峽, at the bottom in 岔. But some radicals always occupy the same relative position, like the 'grass' radical 艹 which is always on the top (萌 etc.).

Section 6
Finding characters

When you want to look up a character in a dictionary, you find it in a list arranged first under radicals, then under the number of extra strokes.

The radicals have a fixed sequence, again in ascending order of strokes; in the simplified system the first is 丶 (a dot) and the last is 鼻 *bí*: nose (14 strokes); in the old system the first is 一 (*yī*: one), the last is 龠 *yuè*, a kind of flute (17 strokes).

To illustrate the method, say you wanted to find the character 苹. You recognize the radical 艹, and where it occurs in the list of radicals (3 strokes) there will be a reference to a section in the main character index. You count the number of remaining strokes, which is 5 (平), and 苹 will be located in that particular subsection.

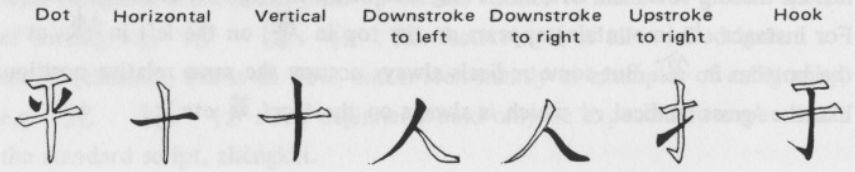
Alternatively, some modern dictionaries are arranged alphabetically, which is useful when you know the pronunciation but want to check the meaning(s), but these dictionaries too have a radical finding list.

At present the above explanation is for information only. You won't need to equip yourself with a dictionary yet.

Section 7
Strokes

It is important to know what constitutes a 'stroke' in a character, and the order in which the strokes are written. A stroke is the line or mark made between putting the pen or brush to paper and lifting it off. If you don't know the number of strokes in a character you can't look it up in a dictionary, as we have seen; and if you don't follow the right order of strokes it is very difficult to achieve the proper harmony and balance.

a) The basic strokes, as they appear in context:



b) Supplementary strokes, in context:



N.B. In handwriting, angles are less square than in printing.

Section 8
Stroke order

- Rule 1 Top before bottom. Examples: 王 毛 草
Exceptions: When the top stroke is a rectangle (冂), the left-hand stroke comes first: 同 日
- Rule 2 Left before right. Examples: 课 在 北
Exceptions: angle on right comes first: 力 院 and 之 又 always come last.
- Rule 3 Horizontals and rectangles before downstrokes which cross them
Examples: 十 大 事
Exception: bottom stroke comes last: 王 里
- Rule 4 Outside frame first. Examples: 同 间
- Rule 5 Inside before 'sealing' stroke.
Examples: 四 国
- Rule 6 Middle before two sides in balance:
Examples: 小 山 办
- Rule 7 Main part may precede subordinate dots.
Examples: 戈 义 母

The above are general rules abstracted from practice. The actual determinants are facility in writing and achieving balance in a character. The rules are useful guides, but learning to write correctly is best done by following the stroke order for individual characters set out below, in Section 10.

Section 9

Penmanship

Writing with a brush, as the Chinese did traditionally, is an art. It involves not only the control of the direction of the stroke, but also of the pressure which causes the line to broaden and/or narrow. Using a pen allows less scope for varying the thickness of the stroke, but we will still start the practice with the character always used for brush training, because it contains the most common strokes, 永. Practise writing it until you get it to look like the model. The stroke starts at the end where the number is.



Section 10

Characters in Lesson One

For each character we identify the radical, and give its meaning if that is helpful. Then we build up the character stroke by stroke so that you can follow the correct order. Practise writing each one until you can write it correctly without looking at the book. You will notice that there is information on vocabulary not included in the Handbook, which does not analyse compound words. (A.W. means 'also written as')

	pron.	meaning	Radical	Build-up
我	wǒ	1st person pronoun	戈 (spear)	丿 亠 子 手 我 我 我
家	jiā	home	宀 (roof)	宀 豕 豕 豕 豕 家 家 家 家 家
王	wáng	king; a surname	王 (a.w. 玉)	一 二 干 王

	pron.	meaning	Radical	Build-up
大	dà	big	大	一 ナ 大
文	wén	culture, writing	文	丶 亠 文 文
在	zài	be (in a place)	土 earth (a.w. 土)	一 尸 才 在 在
北	běi	north(ern)	匕 or 冫	丨 十 土 北 北
京	jīng	capital	亠	丶 亠 亠 京 京 京
麻	má	hemp	广	丶 亠 广 广 广 麻 麻 麻
线	xiàn	line, thread	纟 (silk)	乚 纟 纟 纟 纟 线 线 线
胡	hú	Northern tribe; unruly	月 (flesh)	一 十 十 古 古 古 胡 胡 胡 胡
同	tòng	in this tone, occurs only in combination	口 (mouth)	丨 冂 冂 冂 冂 同 同 同 同
是	shì	to be	日 (sun)	丨 冂 日 日 日 旦 早 早 是 是
平	píng	flat, level	干	一 一 一 一 平 平 平 平
房	fáng	house	户 (door, house hold)	丶 亠 亠 亠 户 户 户 户

Exercise 1

Pick out the radicals in these characters. All the radicals have occurred in the 15 characters you have learned, but the characters themselves are new to you. They are not meant to be learned at this stage. To check the answers, turn to p. 17.

1. 底
2. 宜
3. 玩
4. 吃
5. 战
6. 绿
7. 型
8. 天
9. 扁
10. 交
11. 普
12. 腫
13. 地
14. 六

有	yǒu	have	月 (moon - printed the same as 月 (flesh))	一 ナ 才 有 有
三	sān	three	一	一 二 三
间	jiān	space; measure word	门 (door)	、 丨 门 门 间
屋	wū	room	尸	丿 ㇏ 尸 尸 尸
子	zi	word-ending	子 (child) (a.w. 子)	丿 了 子
一	yī	one	一	
个	gè	measure word	人	ノ 人 个
小	xiǎo	small	小	丿 小 小
院	yuàn	yard	阝 阜	了 阝 阝 阝 阝

里	lǐ	inside	里	丨 冂 冂 日 旦
棵	kē	measure word	木 (tree, wood)	一 丨 才 木 木
石	shí	stone	石	一 丿 丿 石 石
榴	liú	pomegranate	木	木 木 木 木 木
树	shù	tree	木	木 木 木 树 树
两	liǎng	two	一	一 冂 冂 冂 冂
夹	jiā	enclose	大	一 一 冂 冂 夹
竹	zhú	bamboo	竹 (a.w. 𦵏)	丨 乚 个 个 竹
桃	táo	peach	木	木 木 木 桃 桃

Exercise 2

Pick out the radicals in these characters as before. Answers are on p. 17.

1. 展
2. 第
3. 上
4. 期
5. 研
6. 孩
7. 少
8. 闪
9. 杂
10. 量
11. 今
12. 除

东	dōng east(ern)	木	一 乚 东 东 东
边	biān side	辶	丿 力 力 边 边
儿	ér son; word ending	儿	丿 儿
西	xī west(ern)	西	一 一 𠂇 𠂇 西 西
四	sì four	口 used as a frame - distinguish 口 (mouth)	丨 冂 𠔁 𠔁 四 四
盆	pén tub	皿 dish	丿 八 分 分 分 𠔁 𠔁 盆 盆
月	yuè month, moon	月	丿 月 月 月
季	jì season	子	一 二 千 千 禾 季 季 季
花	huā flower	艹 (grass)	一 十 艹 艹 艹 𠂇 花
些	xiē few, some	二 (two)	丨 丨 丨 止 止 此 此 此 些
草	cǎo grass	艹	艹 艹 艹 艹 艹 草

Exercise 3

A. Pick out the radicals as before. For the correct answer turn to p. 17.

1. 通 2. 云 3. 国 4. 益 5. 票
6. 英 7. 先

B. Count the number of strokes in these characters. For answers turn to p. 17.

1. 陈 2. 溜 3. 萎 4. 逐 5. 细
6. 远 7. 晒 8. 辆

IV	五	wǔ	fīve	二	一 ㄣ 万 五
	人	rén	person	人 a.w. 亻	ノ 人
	父	fù	father	父	丿 丶 父 父
	亲	qīn	relation	立 'stand'	丿 丿 亻 立 立 亲
	母	mǔ	mother	母	ㄥ 冂 冂 母 母
	弟	dì	younger brother	弓 'bow'	丿 丿 弓 弓 弓 弟 弟
	妹	mèi	younger sister	女 'female'	ㄥ 女 女 女 女 妹

和	hé and	禾 'grain'	丿 禾 和
印	yìn print	卩	丿 ㇀ ㇀ 印 印
刷	shuā brush	冫 a.w. 刀 'knife'	㇇ ㇇ 尸 尸 局 吊 刷 刷
厂	chǎng factory	厂	一 厂
工	gōng work	工	一 丁 工
作	zuò work, do	亻	ノ 亻 亻 作 作
纺	fǎng spin	纟	㇀ 纟 纟 纟 纟 纺 纺
织	zhī knit	纟	纟 纟 织
旅	lǚ travel	方	丿 ㇀ ㇀ 方 方 方 方 旅 旅 旅
行	xíng go	彳 (prev. 行)	丿 彳 彳 彳 行 行
高	gāo high	亠 (prev. 高)	丿 亠 声 高 高
中	zhōng middle	丨	丨 口 中
读	dú read	讠 (a.w. 言) 'speech'	丿 讠 讠 读 读 读 读
书	shū book	㇇ (amalgamated with 乙)	㇇ ㇇ 书 书

他	tā 3rd. person pronoun	亻	ノ 亻 亻 他 他
们	mén plural suffix	亻	亻 亻 们
都	dōu both, all	阝 (on right of character) (邑)	一 土 产 者 都 都
好	hǎo good	女	㇀ ㇀ 女 女 好 好 好
学	xué learn	子 'child'	丿 ㇀ ㇀ ㇀ ㇀ 学 学 学 学 学
生	shēng student; be born	ノ (prev. 生)	ノ 一 一 牛 生 生

Exercise 4

A. Count the number of strokes. Turn to p. 17 for answers.

- 弛
- 低
- 佻
- 买
- 每
- 邨
- 婚
- 堵

B. Pick out the radicals. Turn to p. 17 for answers.

- 词
- 强
- 旗
- 待
- 娶
- 刚
- 使
- 爹
- 即
- 旁
- 德
- 科

幸	xìng	happy, lucky	土 (prev. 干)	一 十 土 土 幸 𡗗 𡗗 幸
福	fú	fortunate	礻 a.w. (super-natural)	礻 礻 礻 礻 福 礻 福 福 福
庭	tíng	hall, yard	广	广 广 广 庭 庭 庭 庭
这	zhè	this	辶	辶 文 这 这
的	de	particle	白 (white)	丿 白 白 的 的
也	yě	also	乚 a.w. 乙	丿 乚 也
爸	bà	dad	父	父 谷 谷 谷 爸
妈	mā	mum	女 女	女 女 女 妈 妈
堂	táng	main room	土	土 土 土 土 堂 堂 堂 堂
张	zhāng	measure word	弓	弓 弓 弓 弓 张 张 张
方	fāng	square	方	方 方 方
桌	zhuō	table	木	木 木 木 桌 桌 桌

At this stage we suggest you make character cards. On one side of the card write the character. On the other side note the pronunciation and meaning. Go through the cards periodically, looking at one side at a time, first to test if you can remember the pronunciation and meaning, then to see if you can write it. Later on you can write in new combinations as you meet them. To help you in your future work, here is a writing guide for radicals we have not come across yet which you might find a little tricky:

片 丩 丩 片 片

月 月 月 月

风 丩 几 风 风

广 广 广

龙 一 丩 尤 龙 龙

业 丩 丩 丩 业 业

金 丩 丩 丩 金 金

瓜 丩 丩 瓜 瓜

鸟 丩 丩 鸟 鸟 鸟

矛 丩 丩 予 矛

足 丩 丩 下 足 足

衣 丩 丩 衣 衣

老 一 土 丩 老 老

臣 一 丩 丩 臣 臣 臣

卢 丩 丩 土 卢 卢 卢

虫 丩 丩 口 虫 虫

白 丩 丩 丩 白 白 白

舟 丩 丩 舟 舟 舟

羽 丩 丩 羽 羽

聿 丩 丩 聿 聿

艮 丩 丩 艮 艮 艮

麦 丩 丩 麦 麦 麦

走 土 丩 走 走 走

赤 土 丩 赤 赤 赤

豆 一 百 豆 豆 豆
車 一 百 車 車 車
酉 一 万 万 万 酉 酉
豕 一 万 万 万 豕 豕
貝 一 月 月 月 貝 貝
足 口 口 口 足 足
豕 一 豕 豕 豕 豕
谷 一 谷 谷 谷 谷
身 一 身 身 身 身
角 一 角 角 角 角
雨 一 雨 雨 雨 雨
齿 一 齿 齿 齿 齿
食 一 食 食 食 食
金 一 金 金 金 金
魚 一 魚 魚 魚 魚
門 一 門 門 門 門
革 一 革 革 革 革

頁 一 頁 頁 頁 頁
骨 一 骨 骨 骨 骨
鬼 一 鬼 鬼 鬼 鬼
風 一 風 風 風 風
鬥 一 鬥 鬥 鬥 鬥
馬 一 馬 馬 馬 馬
麻 一 麻 麻 麻 麻
鹿 一 鹿 鹿 鹿 鹿
麥 一 麥 麥 麥 麥
鹵 一 鹵 鹵 鹵 鹵
鳥 一 鳥 鳥 鳥 鳥
黑 一 黑 黑 黑 黑
鼠 一 鼠 鼠 鼠 鼠
鼻 一 鼻 鼻 鼻 鼻
齒 一 齒 齒 齒 齒
龍 一 龍 龍 龍 龍

Keys to the exercises

Exercise 1

1. 广
2. 山
3. 彡
4. 口
5. 戈
6. 彡
7. 土
8. 大
9. 户
10. 一
11. 日
12. 月
13. 寸
14. 一

Exercise 2

1. 尸
2. 火
3. 一
4. 月
5. 石
6. 子
7. 小
8. 门
9. 木
10. 里
11. 人
12. 卩

Exercise 3

A.

1. 之
2. 一
3. 口
4. 皿
5. 西
6. 廿
7. 儿

B.

1. 7
2. 13
3. 11
4. 10
5. 8
6. 7
7. 10
8. 11

Exercise 4

A.

- | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|------|------|
| 1. 6 | 2. 7 | 3. 8 | 4. 6 | 5. 7 |
| 6. 7 | 7. 11 | 8. 11 | | |

B.

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|------|------|-------|
| 1. 子 | 2. 弓 | 3. 方 | 4. イ | 5. 女 |
| 6. 月 | 7. イ | 8. 父 | 9. P | 10. 方 |
| 11. イ | 12. 禾 | | | |